

The 20 Most Important Changes to the Rules of Golf 2019

1. Search Time – Reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes
2. Ball Moved During Search – Replace, no penalty
3. Embedded Ball – Free relief anywhere through the course
4. Measuring a Drop – Use longest club (Except Putter)
5. Dropping – Drop from knee height rather than shoulder
6. Taking stance on a wrong green is not permitted
7. Ball Unintentionally Hits Player or Equipment – No Penalty
8. Double Hit – No Penalty, Now only counts as the 1 stroke
9. Touching sand in bunker incidentally is permitted
10. Loose impediments can be removed anywhere including hazards
11. Dropping ball out of bunker – 2 penalty strokes
12. Water Hazards – Now called penalty areas
13. Touching Ground in Penalty Area – No Penalty
14. Ball Moves on Green after being Marked – Replace without Penalty
15. Ball Accidentally Moved on Putting Green – Replace without Penalty
16. All Damage to Green Can Now be Repaired
17. Positioning a Club for alignment is not Permitted
18. Caddie Assisting with Alignment is now NOT Permitted
19. Putting with Flag Stick in the Hole is now Permitted
20. Ball wedged against Flag Stick and side of the hole is now deemed as Holed

New Terminology

New Term – Old Term

General Area – Through the Green

Penalty Areas – Water Hazard and Lateral Hazard

Relief Area – Dropping Area

Reference Point – Nearest Point of Relief

Temporary Water – Casual Water

Teeing Area – Teeing Ground

Bunker – Sand Trap or Hazard